

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application, of which claims 1 and 11 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

Claims 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,965,229 to Duan et al. (hereafter, "**Duan et al.**")

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

**Duan et al.** discloses a method for testing a magnetoresistive sensor for polarity reversal, including: writing a test pattern on a magnetic disk; providing a mechanical or thermal stress to the magnetoresistive sensor for a period of time; and, comparing the polarity of the test pattern before and after the application of stress.

**Duan et al.** fails to disclose the following feature recited in claim 1, which the Examiner has indicated is a feature not found in the prior art of record:

Wherein said specific condition comprises a step of applying a magnetic field to a top of a core slider of the magnetic head when an element part of said magnetic head abuts on the bumps so as to determine as to whether the fixed layer of the magnetic head has undergone inversion of magnetization direction, said magnetic field extending in a direction opposite the magnetization direction of the fixed layer.

Accordingly, claim 11 has been amended to recite this distinction.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-10 are allowed.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/711,782  
Response to Office Action dated September 27, 2006

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-13, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

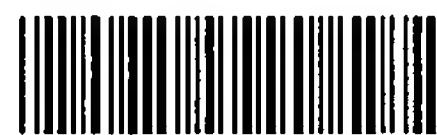
Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure (clean and marked-up versions)

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